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Annual Project Safe Neighborhoods Family Day Event to Offer Host of Positive Youth Initiatives

Community Program Slated for Saturday, August 28 to Provide Affirmative Activities as Deterrents to Gang Participation and Youth Violence

Salisbury, NC_August 24, 2010 – Mayor Susan Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council and Project SAFE Neighborhoods (PSN) Salisbury-Rowan, encourages all citizens to attend the upcoming PSN Family Day event slated for Saturday, August 28. Registration begins at 9:30 am at the J.F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Blvd., with festivities continuing through 2 pm that afternoon. The event marks the fifth in a series of Project SAFE Neighborhoods Family Day events that serve as positive intervention and prevention programs for kids (grades K-5).

Mayor Kluttz, a charter member of the PSN Task Force, offers, “I sincerely encourage everyone to attend this wonderful community event. Project SAFE Family Day promotes the importance of the family unit and reinforces the vital responsibility that parents possess in supplying their children with positive support and good direction, while serving as strong role models. Family Day continues to deliver positive youth opportunities by offering available venues for leadership development, service to others, and civic involvement. In addition, these positive opportunities align perfectly with the eight focus areas identified by our citizens during our Salisbury-Rowan United Positive Youth Summit. By uplifting these constructive opportunities, we can assist in creating a positive framework for developing healthy, happy, violent-free lives. In turn, we ultimately create a safer local environment for all.” On-site informational displays and booths will offer well-trained staff to provide attendees with available opportunities for involvement in the areas of: Mentoring & Tutoring, Recreational Opportunities/Athletics, Parenting Classes, Schools and School-Based Programs, and Support from the Faith Community. Complimentary food and drinks will be served with free back-to-school supplies available for children. Exciting door prizes will be given away during each workshop session and additional grand prize drawings will be held at 1:30 pm. Winners must be present to claim their prizes and free school supply giveaways will be available to the first 500 attendees with early attendance strongly encouraged.

Salisbury Police Chief Rory Collins, who also serves as Director of Project SAFE offers, “These community events provide a constructive setting for our citizens while generating awareness for positive youth opportunities throughout Salisbury-Rowan. Family Day activities provide immense resources that allow involvement in affirmative activities and interaction with positive role models and mentors. Unfortunately, our children are often targeted for gang activity at a very young age. By involving youngsters in positive

activities, we strive to discourage their association with any gang activity or violence. Children often desire to become a part of organizations that provide a group or team environment; our objective is to uplift the many positive venues that are accessible to them and to steer children in the direction of constructive involvement.” In response, Family Day will offer excitement and education for children through XRKade Play, inflatable activities such as the moon bounce and giant slide, educational and entertaining movies, and a variety of interactive, enrichment games. Children will also have the opportunity to meet McGruff the Crime Dog and attend the *McGruff’s Bully Alert* workshop presented by Salisbury Police Officer Ann Cooper.

Informational booths and displays will include: Project Safe Neighborhoods, Youth Services Bureau, Salisbury Parks & Recreation, Rowan County YMCA, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, LINKS, Smart Start Rowan, Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, the Youth in Action against Tobacco Council, and Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare. Available informational workshops for parents will include: Gangs are Recruiting your Children, What Do You Do When Your Child’s World Changes, and Let’s Talk About Bullying. Classes will be held at 10 am, 10:30 am, 11 am, 11:30 am, 12 noon and 12:30 pm. Attendees in each workshop will be eligible to participate in exciting door prize drawings.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federally-funded program, created to reduce violent gun crime by partnering volunteer citizens with law enforcement. Past violent offenders are notified that their crimes must stop and those willing to change their ways are assisted with available resources. Those offenders that do not heed the warnings by local law enforcement officials and accept community support will receive the maximum allowable sentence for future crimes. For more information regarding Project SAFE Salisbury, visit www.salisburync.gov/projectsafe/safesalisbury.htm. For questions regarding the Project SAFE Family Day event, please contact Project SAFE Coordinator Teresa Vinson at 704-638-2175.

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